



SIBSHOPS are a celebration of the many contributions made by brothers and sisters.

Sibshops are sponsored by:



This national program's primary goal is to increase the availability of peer support and education opportunities for these brothers and sisters.

What are Sibshops? Sibshops are not therapy, group or otherwise, although their effect may be therapeutic for some children. Sibshops acknowledge that most brothers and sisters of people with special needs, like their parents, are doing well, despite the challenges of an illness or disability. Consequently, while Sibshop facilitators always keep an eye open for participants who may need additional services, the Sibshop model takes a wellness approach. Sibshops are a lively mixture of new games, discussion and activities. Participants should dress comfortably and be ready for action! We'll also make and eat a meal together!

Here's what kids are saying about

SIBSHOPS:

"Sibshops have great cooking activities."

"Sibshops have outrageous games!"

"Sibshop is a place where I can share my feelings about my sib."

"Sibshops are a place to learn about cool things."

"Sibshop is something that only I can do!"

"It gives me a chance to be myself and meet new friends."

**For more information contact
Lori Griffiths (207) 859-8778 ext. 4413
Or
Lindsay Tardiff (207) 859-8778 ext. 4411**



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We are pleased to announce that Woodfords Family Services is offering a fall session of Sibshops for 6 to 11 year old brothers and sisters of children with special needs in Augusta, Maine. Sibshops offer brothers and sisters the opportunity to meet other siblings of people with special needs, share common joys and concerns, and learn about the implications of their siblings' disability-all in a lively, recreational environment!

For the 2009-2010 year we will be offering Sibshops *free of charge* for children 6-11 years old. Our Augusta Sibshops will be held the first Friday of each month, starting October 2, 2009 at the Maine Developmental Disabilities Council building at 225 Western Avenue Augusta, Maine 04330. We strongly encourage the child to attend all of the sessions. This not only allows for continuity but group bonding as well.

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